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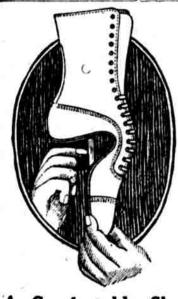
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The Daily Movie Magazine



THE MOVIE FAN'S LETTERBOX

By HENRY M. NEELY

(I'm glad to welcome you back to our column. You bet it's curs. And I'm so glad to have some one notice little Shannon Day. She seems to me to be simply bubbling over with possibilities, and her work in "North of the Rio Grande" was fine. I'm going to been

keep my eye on her, and here's wishing her success, for we need some new

I've cut out your P. S., but I want

"Lalune"-Many thanks. It would

be highly unethical to print your com-

parison with my more famous con-temporary, but—them kind wolds is ap-

preciated. And I'm so glad to know that in your previous letter you wrote it "clear eyed" instead of "blear eyed." Because I'm really not, you know;

haven't been for quite a long time now

"I Wonder" writes: "Last night

than Agnes Ayres in-nothing.
"Agnes was better as Dorn Beckett

won't. Too bad, because she must have

in any of her recent pictures

ome ability, although it isn't apparent

"Did you ever notice that she use

one expression for every emotion, that

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"Eency Meeney"—I s'pose your real feel it is ours—all of us that write to name is Miney Mo, isn't it? I'm sorr; and read it) said, better music you insist on my opinion of "Border-land." I started the day full of hap-the better places they do get it. But land." I started the day full of happiness and optimism and here you go
and ruin it. Hesides, I can't give an
absolutely definite opinion. I'd be
tempted right now to say it is the
sum of the better places they do get it. But
in the neighborhood houses it's awful.
"Now, heaven knows I have no musical education; neither have many of
us, but I rebel sometimes at hearing the tempted, right now to say it is the worst photoplay I have ever seen, but that's a sweeping statement, and I ought to allow myself at least six months' conning of my memory to try to think of a worse one. So far, I haven't succeeded.

Least some jazz played for weddings, parties and sudden deaths. You know, Henry, that a man can't die with any dignity to the strains of 'Georgia.' Yet it's done most every evening in our neighborhood house. Why will they do it?

haven't succeeded.

I said some time ago in a review of the work of various directors that Paul Powel was good in his day, but that the movies had passed him by. "Borderland' doesn't make me retract that. Powell's "fantasy" in this film is merely the maudlin mooning of a department store floorwaiker, who is suce that Robert Service writes poetry. sure that Robert Service writes poetry. He has no power to picture spiritual imagery in any terms beyond those learned in the horrors of a bargain-day rush. And he projects them against a background of myopic distortions of ninety-eight-cent wall-paper or the lithographs from the ten-cent picture frame counter. "Borderland" in every department—direction. photography department—direction, photography, settings, spirit and continuity—struck me as being the perfect example of what a photoplay should not be.

"Just David" writes: "In reading over the Letter Box daily I fail to find to say I don't consider it a threat; it's a promise I'd like you to keep!) any mention of Sessue Hayakawa, who think is a wonderful actor, one of the best on the screen, in fact."
"By the way, Henry, how do you

by the way, Henry, how do you spece it or just naturally cough it up?
"How is it that he is making so few pictures lately and what is his latest; also is he Japanese or Chinese? About how long has Hayakawa played on the screen and how was his talent discovered? Was he married in the United States or his native country? Please publish his address; as I should saw like to write to him and secure his pic-

saw Agnes Ayres in 'Borderland.'
Rather good, but wiry waste such a
brilliant actor as Milton Sills in such
a small and insignificant part as the ture if possible.
"By the way, Henry, when you take Cynthia out to lunch on Monday take bushand? He had hardly anything to her to some swell joint and not to the do, but I'd rather see him doing nothing Put and Take; remember she is a lady. 'Fess up, now; you do eat in that joint once in a while, don't you?"

(Always-the day before each payday. And I wouldn't for the world have it known that I take Cynthia there, because it would create an awful

were Sess-You (accent on the "Sess") High-a-kah-w' (accent on the "High"). That's the information I

He hasn't been making pictures lately because his contract ended and he and his wife. Tsuru Aoki, went back to Japan for a visit and, according to latest information, are now in hiding to escape the vengeance of a sort of Jap Ku Klux Klan, whose members want to do a rapid fade-out on him because they think he has ruined Japan's world reputation by playing so many villains' parts. So there's no use trying to write

Hayakawa went into pictures about nine years ago. He came to this country as an actor in a Japanese stock company, but left and entered the University of Chicago to perfect his Eng-lish. He became engaged to Tsuru Aoki, a Japanese actress, who was having success in films in California, and she induced him to try it, too. Success and marriage both followed.)

"Old-Timer" writes: "I won't lay any claim to having seen the first pic-ture ever produced or anything like that, but I do remember the first picture

of any length that was shown in our home town. No, not 'Philly'; about 1900 miles further west. 'It was a regular 'Main street' town, two good movies on the main street. two good movies on the main street.

"Thanhouser was my special favorite just then, mainly because of James Cruze, who then played leads for it: trusty Jack Richardson was the heavy. Maybe he wasn't the vill, bad man! Anyray, the picture was Rider Haggard's story. Tess and Jess. Pauline Rush and Jerralyn Van Trump had the leads. After atting half way through the picture is sign came on the ecreen. "Second and instrinct shown tomorrow evening." The iesult was I had to kid my big sister into another doing that in this day and age. Fortunately they don't.

tunately they don't.
"Coming back to modern times, isn't it fine to hear all the letters boosting

the news weeklies, Pathe, and so on? I used to imagine I was queer because they appealed to me. So many people say they make them weary. I can't think of a more interesting thing than seeing before your eyes places and events that you read of daily. "And some time ago who was it in our column (sound rather possessive, loesn't it, 'our coll in,' but I like to

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catch of the teeth on the lower lip. It is very impressive, but she doesn't always use it in the right place. For instance, if your child is burning, and you catch your lower lip, you look more as if you're crying for a lollypop than as if you were an anguished mother. "The story of the dead woman is supposed to take place seventy years ago and yet when Agnes is running away with her captain lover, she puts on her hat, picks up her bag and blithely steps over to a button and puts the light out. I didn't know that electricity was in existence seventy years ago. How come?

"The scenes of the fire and of the Borderland were very impressive. But Agnes Ayres! Ouch!
"There have been so many beauty contests for the girls, I really do think the men ought to get a chance at It. What about having a 'handsome man' contest? What do you say, slieite?
"No, I'm not a man."

"I also saw 'Nice People.' The same evening, too. Very, very good. Bebe Daniels ought to be proud of her acting in it. I never liked her before, but I think she is great. Wallace Reid,

"I noticed that Bebe Daniels were an overcoat, and so did Conrad Nagle when they stopped at the country house, although the trees were in full bloom, and in the later scenes, Bebe runs around with just overalls. I wonder when the movies will cease to be movies and become true-to-life pictures."

(To think that it has come to this-to the point where I can calmly read such croo-el things about my once darling Agnes Ayres and not feel im-pelled to contradict one of them! But it's a fact. Agnes reminds me of a lost it's a fact. Agnes reminds me of a lost child who can't quite remember where it was she started out to go.

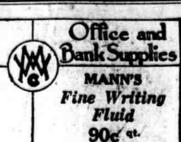
The suggestion of a contest for handsome men intrigues me. It's the only thing that would induce me to print my own picture—that is, of course, if they offered a booby prize.

You sure are the keen-eyed picker when it comes to flaws in films, aren't you? I didn't notice those mistakes in "Nice People." But then neither did I notice that it was "very, very good."

I notice that it was "very, very good."

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than as the modern heroine. Probably because she was playing a dead one. What Miss Ayres lacks is sincerity. She is like the little bird who can sing, but APOLLO 52D A THOMPSON STR.
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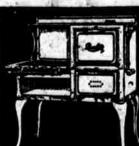
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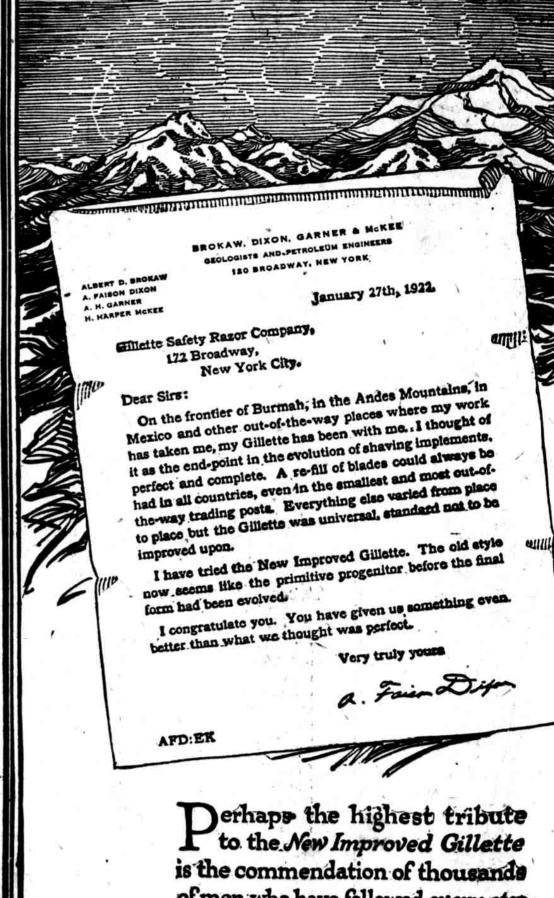
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